

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 107360

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGOV, CY, IS, US

SUBJECT: NICOSIA 1003

1. THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN YOUR JUDGMENT THAT SOME KIND OF WARNING SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE GOC AS TO THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF ALLOWING A FURTHER PALESTINIAN BUILD-UP IN CYPRUS. ANY SUCH APPROACH SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE TAILORED WITH THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND:

(A) WE ARE PROBABLY NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE GOC ANY MORE INFORMATION ON PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS THAN THEY ALREADY POSSESS. IT IS NOT FOR LACK OF INFORMATION, BUT RATHER FOR LACK OF POLITICAL WILL, THAT THE GOC HAS
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THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM MOVING AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS.

(B) THE ONLY UNIQUE INFORMATION THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO CONVEY IS A FAIRLY CLEAR INDICATION FROM WEIZMAN (TEL AVIV 4796) THAT THE GOI WOULD STRONGLY CONSIDER RETALIATION AGAINST ANY FURTHER PALESTINIAN RAIDS ON ISRAELI TERRITORY, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE THEY WERE MOUNTED. WE WOULD ASSUME,

HOWEVER, THAT THE GOC IS ALREADY AWARE OR AT LEAST STRONGLY SUSPECTS THAT A RAID MOUNTED FROM CYPRUS WOULD INVITE RETALIATION AGAINST THE ISLAND.

(C) IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR CYPRUS POLICY GENERALLY THAT THE GOOD INITIAL RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU REMAIN INTACT. KYPRIANOU'S OWN PERCEPTION AT THE MOMENT APPEARS TO BE THAT THE ISRAELIS-- AND THEIR PURPORTED EOKA-B COLLABORATORS--REPRESENT A GREATER THREAT TO TO THE INTERNAL PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF CYPRUS THAN DO THE PALESTINIANS. HENCE HIS RECENT EFFORTS TO ROUND UP EXTREME RIGHTISTS AND SUSPECTED ISRAELI AGENTS. WE THEREFORE TEND TO THINK THAT FOR YOU TO APPROACH THE PRESIDENT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH QUITE THE OPPOSITE MESSAGE IN HAND COULD EASILY BE READ--OR CAST--AS AN UN-FRIENDLY ACT AND AS INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND GIVE RISE TO CHARGES OF U.S.-ISRAELI COLLUSION. MOREOVER, KYPRIANOU MIGHT BE TEMPTED OR PRESSURED INTO MAKING YOUR APPROACH PUBLIC, AND THE LOCAL PRESS, AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, WOULD HAVE A HEYDAY.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE MESSAGE SHOULD BE DELIVERED EITHER AT A LOWER LEVEL OR BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN OURSELVES. AN APPROACH IN THE DILLERY-MOUROUZIDES CHANNEL, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD PERHAPS BE HANDLED MORE DISCREETLY, WOULD CARRY LESS RISK OF EXPOSURE FOR
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YOURSELF, AND WOULD BE MORE IN PROPORTION TO THE LIMITED INFORMATION THAT WE IN FACT HAVE TO CONVEY. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOUROUZIDES WOULD DOUBTLESS REPORT THE APPROACH TO HIS SUPERIORS, AND IN THE PRESENT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT QUESTIONS MIGHT BE ASKED AS TO U.S. MOTIVATION IN DELIVERING SUCH A WARNING. AN ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO ASK THE BRITISH TO PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE CYPRIOTS. THIS OPTION WOULD AVOID THE RISK OF ENMESHING THE ISSUE IN OUR CURRENT EFFORT TO STIMULATE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND WOULD, MOREOVER, BE CONSONANT WITH RESIDUAL BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CYPRUS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY OF GUARANTEE. THE BRITISH MIGHT OF COURSE BE RELUCTANT TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THIS FASHION IN THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

3. YOUR COMMENTS AND THOSE OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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